Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)
1994-95	3.808
1995-96	3.528
1996-97	2.290

(c) and (d) ONGC has hired consultancy services for studying the behaviour of some non-performing wells of Neelam Field for suggesting remedial measures. Government has not taken any decision to enter into strategic alliances with Multinational Companies for the renewal of this field.

Deduction of Employees' E.P.F. Amount by O.N.G.C.

3587. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the O.N.G.C. is deducting E.P.F. amount from employees and has not yet implemented the employees pension scheme under Act No. 25 of 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what action the ministry has taken so far and which authority has given relaxation to the O.N.G.C. in this regard;

(d) whether Government would take any action against the O.N.G.C. for the violation of Act No. 25 of 1996; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) O.N.G.C. Ltd. has applied to E.P.F. authorities for exemption from the purview of the Employees pension Scheme, 1995, under clause 39 of the

3588. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh as on 31st December 1996, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending in the State, district wise.

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to sanction eight lakh new LPG connections in the country; and

(d) if so, the number of gas connections proposed to be allocated, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The LPG customer population enrolled with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.1.1997 was about 20.49 lakhs.

(b) The number of persons in the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the Public Sector Oil Companies in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.1.1997 was about 10.74 lakhs.

(c) Government had approved release of 20 lakh new LPG connections during 1996-97, out of this, release of 8.5 lakh new LPG connections were approved for the period January 1997 to March 1997.

(d) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country, depending upon the availability of LPG, new customer enrolment plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. LPG is not an allocated product and no advance allocation is made.

Import of Kerosene and LPG

3589. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow import of kerosene and LPG in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?